FROM ACTION

EA-8

M/R 1	REP	AF
RA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR 5
E	P 2	IO
L	FBO	AID 12
EP 1	G/PM 1	
GR	COM	FRB
NT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
RMY 3	CIA 20	NAVY 5
SD 33	USIA 10	NSA 3
SC 6	SFA 2	WHK 3

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

22 1/4

POL 14 VIETS

POL 18 VIETS

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A-199 NO. | CONFIDENTIAL | AIR POUCH HANDLING INDICATOR (1107)

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF STATE SEP 20 2 17 PM 1967

INFO: BANGKOK, CINCPAC, DA NANG, VIENTIANE

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON DATE: September 18, 1967

SUBJECT : PROVINCIAL REPORTING: Election Outcome in II Corps

REF : SAIGON 5163

POL 14 VIETS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

Transmitted herewith is a condensation of a report on the outcome of the Presidential, Vice-Presidential, and Upper House elections in II Corps prepared at the direction of the Deputy for CORDS, II CTZ, Nha Trang.

Repro att JEC

Enclosure:

Reported as stated.

BUNKER

Action assigned to VN

Action Taken: NOTED

10/13/67 EA/VN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Tom Ingelson DATE 12/23/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON
EXEMPTION ☐
DECLASSIFY ☑ DECLASSIFY ☑
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Drafted by: POL:TPHDunlop:eac 9-18-67

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Clearances:

CLASSIFICATION

ELECTIONS IN II CTZ

Clearly, in II Corps the Thieu-Ky ticket ran best in areas which have large minority populations. (In the highlands, Catholics gave the GVN slate even greater support than the Montagnards, see reference) All of the provinces in which the Thieu-Ky ticket received a majority of the Presidential votes cast are primarily Montagnard Provinces. In addition, the two provinces in which Thieu-Ky verged on receiving a majority, Phu Bon and Pleiku, also have a predominantly Montagnard population. As an example, Thieu-Ky received 50.2 percent of the vote in Tuyen Duc Province. However, in Dalat City, with a larger proportion of Vietnamese, the Thieu-Ky ticket received only 21.6 percent of the votes. Montagnard support of the Thieu-Ky ticket was due in large measure to Thieu's promulgation of the Statut Particulier on August 29 in Ban Me Thuot. In addition, it was Premier Ky who was presented with the document at the close of the June 1967 Pleiku Conference, where he promised that it would be promulgated. Thus, he was closely associated with the Statut in the minds of Montagnard leaders who, for all practical purposes, control the Montagnard vote.

In addition, an analysis of the vote in four districts in Binh Thuan Province indicates that support of the Thieu-Ky ticket among minority groups in II CTZ was not limited to Montagnards. In Hai Ninh District, which has a large population of Nungs and which is considered very secure, the Thieu-Ky ticket received 50.9 percent of the total vote cast (their nearest competitor, Suu, received only 9.8 percent) and in Phan Ly Cham District, which has a large population of Chams with some Montagnards, the Thieu-Ky ticket received 79 percent of the total vote (their nearest competitor, Dzu, received only 2.7 percent). However, in Tuy Phong District, which has a predominantly Vietnamese population and is insecure, the Thieu-Ky ticket received only 37.6 percent of the vote while their nearest competitor, Dzu, received 25 percent. In Hoa Da District which also has a predominantly Vietnamese population, the Thieu-Ky ticket lost, receiving only 27 percent of the vote, compared to Dzu, who received 40.2 percent of the vote.

There also appears to be a split between those areas wherein the population has access to mass media and those areas without such media. In general, this split is along urban/rural lines. However, rural areas adjacent to urban centers are included in the "urban" category. The Thieu-Ky ticket received a larger percentage of votes in "rural" areas. Thus, in addition to the obvious split between urban Dalat and the remainder of Tuyen Duc Province, the following should be noted:

1) Thieu-Ky received only 34.6 percent of the vote in Cam Ranh City.

2) Thieu-Ky received only 36 percent of the vote in Quin Nhon City and 32.2 percent in adjacent Tuy Phuoc District as compared to a province-wide average for Binh Dinh Province of 43.5 percent.

3) In Tuy Hoa District Thieu-Ky were able to match their low 29.7 percent average for Phu Yen Province as a whole. In adjacent Hieu Xuong District, which is very insecure, they placed third with 15.4 percent, as compared with 27 percent for Suu and 16 percent for Dzu.

Thus, the evidence indicates that mass media did make a positive contribution to the competitiveness of the election. The population within those areas having access to modern communication media were presented with information about the various candidates. However, in general, within the other areas, Thieu-Ky were the only familiar candidates.

Although the statisitics on the election for the Senate are not yet complete, the available evidence indicates that within the II CTZ voting for the Senate was largely random, with the exception of Lists 8 and 13. With six provinces and two cities reporting (i.e., the provinces of Binh Thuan, Darlac, Lam Dong, Phu Bon, Phu Yen, Tuyen Duc and the cities of Dalat and Cam Ranh), only Lists 3, 8, 13, and 40 are represented among the top six in at least four of the eight locations and only lists 8 and 13 are among the first or second in more than two locations. List 13 stands first in six of the eight locations, and second in one, (i.e., the provinces of Binh Thuan, Darlac, Phu Bon and Tuyen Duc and the Cities of Dalat and Cam Ranh). This is obviously not a random vote. The vote forList 8 is not as consistent; however, it stands among the top six in seven of the locations and stands second in four.

Psychological Attitudes, II CTZ

It is generally agreed throughout the Corps area that the elections were conducted in an orderly and efficient manner. Although the lack of extensive mass media resources and the voter's relative inexperience in a national election heavily weighted the Presidential/Vice-Presidential election in favor of the incumbents; with the possible exception of Pleiku (which is discussed below), the elections appeared essentially fair and honest. In an effort to alleviate the communications problem, JUSPAO distributed tons of non-partisan election material to all the provinces for further distribution to appropriate GVN officials. The GVN likewise printed and distributed a great quantity of material. The Vietnamese Information Service (VIS) did a better job on the elections than it usually does on non-election matters. It attempted to educate thepeople concerning the importance of the elections and the necessity to vote. There have been no reports of VIS partisanship or efforts to influence the electorate toward a particular candidate.

In Pleiku, GVN officials were the subject of the CORDS Senior Province Advisor (SPA) complaints. The SPA in Pleiku reports that there is considerable evidence of provincial officials either obstructing or failing to assist the campaign efforts of the civilian candidates. SPA Pleiku also reports that poll watching on election day was inadequate. However, the voters in Pleiku Province appear to be satisfied with the outcome.

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Only minor and isolated instances of unfair practices were reported throughout the rest of II CTZ, (e.g., Census Grievance Cadres serving as observers forThieu-Ky in Binh Thuan Province, representatives of Thieu-Ky wearing List 9's symbol at the polling places in Phu Bon, and the ballots of one senatorial candidate missing in Kontum). These appear, if intentional, to have been the work of overzealous sub-ordinates rather than evidence of a high-level conspiracy. In fact, Thieu-Ky did poorer in many areas than was expected (e.g., Pleiku and Phu Yen) and actually lost in some districts.

An undercurrent of anti-election sentiment especially among the Buddhists in Tuyen Duc, Khanh Hoa, and Qui Nhon, was noted prior to Setpember 3. However, there was no significant anti-election activity by the Buddhists and none was recorded on election day, despite the feeling that the militant Buddhist hierarchy in Saigon might initiate a nationwide series of demonstrations and/or election sabotage programs that would involve Buddhists throughout the Corps area.

Predictions that GVN logistical and security preparations would be adequate to insure security to voters in provincial and district capitals on election day were borne out by events. The VC were not successful in their attempts to corrupt the elections.

Attacks at or near polling places were reported in the provinces of Phu Yen, Binh Dinh, Quang Duc, Darlac, Pleiku, and Phu Bon and the City of Cam Ranh. In Phu Yen Province, a bomb exploded at a polling place in Hieu-Xuong District on the morning of September 3. Although three persons were killed and forty-two more wounded, the polling place was reopened for voting within the hour. Some of the recently wounded were among the voters. In Binh Dinh Province one PF Platoon leader was ambushed in An Khe and one PF soldier was killed by a booby-trapped ballot box in Binh Khe District. In Quang Duc, 60 mm. mortar shells were fired at the compound, but they all fell short and only three exploded. In Darlac, a large enemy force attacked a Montagnard hamlet in Phuoc An District on election morning. Friendly casualties were seven killed and 36 wounded. Enemy casualties were 20 killed and an estimated 60 wounded. Eighty percent (80%) of the registered voters of the hamlet cast ballots, even though at least ten percent (10%) were wounded or dependants of the wounded. In Pleiku, the VC made attempts to enter villages on election eve. In both cases, the VC were repulsed by the PF. In Phu Bon Province, three polling places in Duc Hung village in Phu Tuc District were harrassed by mortar fire, automatic weapons fire and a probe by a squad on election day. In Cam Ranh City, a VC attempt to infiltrate the hamlet of Cuu Loi on election eve was countered by an ambush by friendly forces, resulting in 3 VC killed and 1 weapon captured.

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